

## Supporters of Second Parent Adoption

### National:

American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Anthropological Association  
American Bar Association  
American Medical Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Psychoanalytic Association  
Child Welfare League of America  
Evan P. Donaldson Adoption Institute  
National Association of Social Workers  
North American Council on Adoptable Children

### State and Regional:

Adoption Options Worldwide, Inc.  
American Academy of Pediatrics-MI Chapter  
American Camp Association  
American Civil Liberties Union of MI  
Child & Family Services, Capital Area  
Episcopal Diocese of Michigan  
Jewish Family Services  
Jewish Reconstructionist Havurah Society  
Jewish Council of Women  
JS Psychological Services  
Michigan Psychiatric Society  
Michigan Women's Commission  
MI Assoc of Infant Mental Health  
MI Chapter of National Organ. Of Women  
National Association of Social Workers-MI  
State Bar of MI—Family Law Section  
Washtenaw Area Council for Children



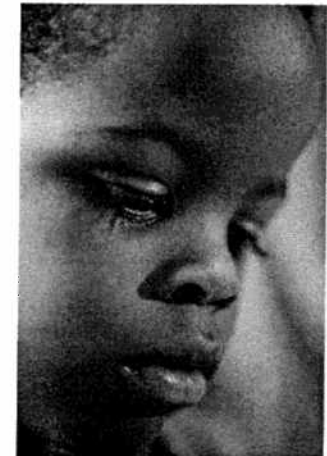
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## Second Parent Adoption: A Child Welfare Policy

### Why Michigan's Children Need HB 4131



# HB 4131 Will Improve Child Welfare Statewide

HB 4131 makes it possible for children with two unmarried parents or guardians to gain access to the rights and benefits that other children enjoy.



**Baby Logan,  
Birmingham, MI**

According to the 2000 Census, over 50% of Michigan's families include unmarried parents or guardians. That means that second parent adoption could help the children in over 50% of Michigan's families.

In 2003, the MI Department of Human Services reported that 19,923 children were in out of home care. The state spent about \$5,000 to \$6,000 in foster care expenses per child that year. If those children had a permanent home, the state could have saved:

**\$99,615,000 in foster care alone.**

Imagine how much the state could have saved if those children had access to health insurance. With second parent adoption, children would have increased access to health insurance, pension benefits, and Social Security benefits.

## Real Michigan Families

The 2000 Census recorded 202,220 unmarried partner households in Michigan. Nearly 85,000 of these households were comprised of heterosexual couples raising children together, and an estimated 3,000 same sex couples raising children together.

Second parent adoption could benefit the children being raised by...

- Foster parents. More adoptive parents means fewer children in foster care.
- A grandmother alone. Her nephew wishes he could sign on as a second parent so that the children would have access to his health insurance.
- Two life-long adult friends who are unmarried and have decided to combine their families and pool their resources.
- Two unmarried heterosexual parents.
- Two same-sex parents
- A single father is sick with cancer. He wishes he could have another trusted adult sign-on as a second parent, but does not want to relinquish his parental rights in order to do it.



**The B'Sheart Family  
Oakland County, MI**

## What Can You Do?

If the legislature passes HB 4131, thousands of Michigan children will benefit from the legal recognition of two parents. In turn, the state could save millions of dollars in foster care and Medicaid expenses.

Regardless of what is happening in adults' lives, second parent adoption adds financial and emotional security to children's lives. By not supporting HB 4131, you do nothing to change the family configurations that exist, and you do nothing to improve the well-being of children. By supporting HB 4131, you insure that thousands of children have the security of two parents.

You have the opportunity to improve child welfare statewide, with **no cost to the state**. This is the practical and compassionate thing to do.

